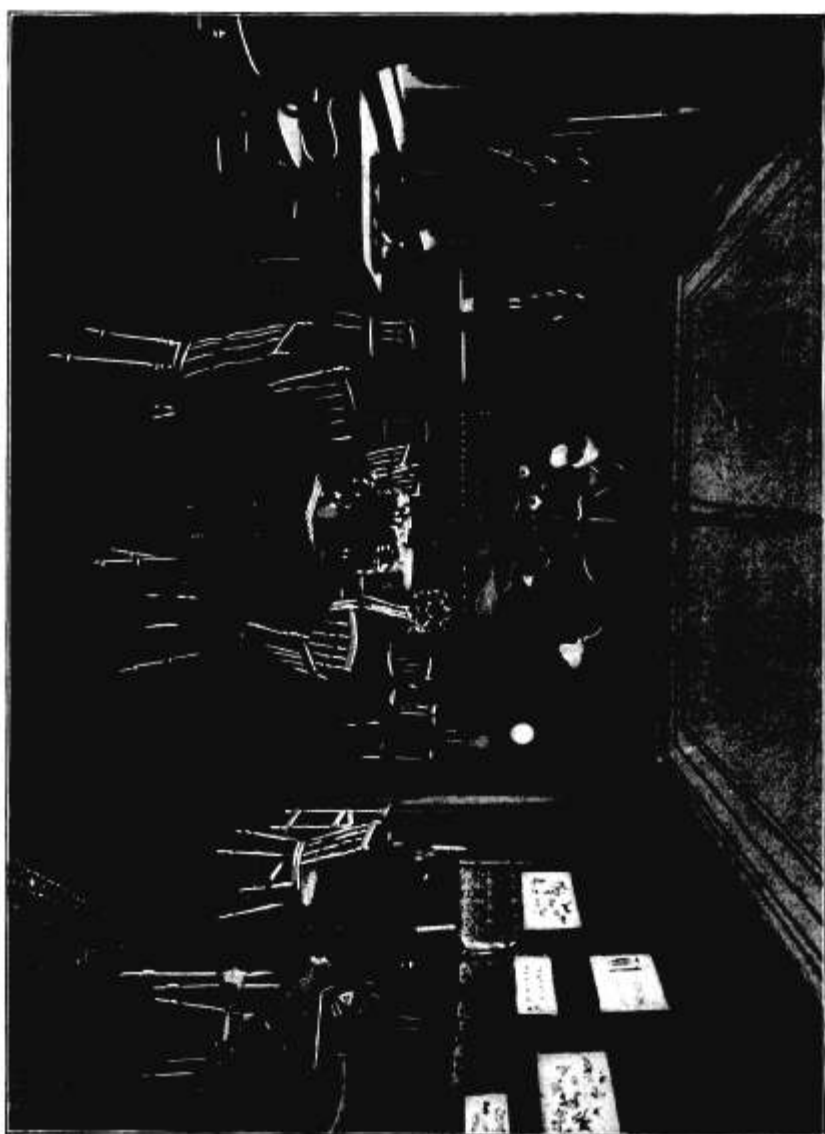


THE SOPHIAHEMMET IN STOCKHOLM

By LILLIAN D. WALD

IN answer to inquiries made in reference to the Swedish nursing, we were told that the Sophiahemmet nurses of Stockholm occupied a place analogous to the trained nurse in America, and that though other orders of nursing sisterhoods had among them many women of education and culture, the Sophiahemmet had high educational standards with which all applicants must conform, and had therefore more uniform results. We called at the hospital and found cordial willingness to pilot us through the buildings and to answer all questions concerning the training system and history of the hospital.

The present Drottning (Queen) Sophia in 1884 organized a small class of young women in Stockholm and secured the services of a graduate of one of the London hospitals as their instructor. In 1889 the Sophiahemmet Hospital was built, primarily to give the nurses a practical training-place of their own, and about the same time a very attractive, prettily furnished, and altogether refined house for their residence. The conditions of admission require high educational and physical ability, age of from twenty-one to thirty-five years, and the profession of the Protestant religion. Upon admission the applicant pays two hundred krone (a krone being about twenty-eight cents United States money), and is called a probationer for eighteen months and a "proof" nurse for the next six months. Upon satisfactory completion of the two years of service she is presented with a diploma and may wear the Sophiahemmet cap (white with black velvet band) and the pin (silver Maltese cross with S. H. monogram), but her connection with the institution does not cease unless she so desires. The nurses



THE SISTERS' SITTING-ROOM



A BANDAGING LESSON

usually remain under orders from the directress, and though under no vows, subject to her direction and guardianship.

The directress was not at home when we made our visit, and the pleasure of meeting her was denied us, but she is spoken of affectionately as an exceedingly capable executive and of fine education. Though not a trained nurse, she has obtained good theoretical and practical training for the hospital pupils.

Besides work in the Sophiahemmet, principally used for private operative cases, the nurses go to the large Serafimerlasarettet,—an extensive and well-equipped general hospital,—to the ophthalmic, lying-in, and contagious hospitals. The class and lecture work is confined to the first year, and includes lectures in the theory of nursing by a nurse, anatomy, surgery, materia medica, and hygiene by different physicians, and a Bible class conducted by the pastor.

During these two years of training the nurses receive no stipend, but receive board and one suit and one apron a year. After this they are called Sophiahemmet Sisters (unless they choose to sever their connection, in which case the cap and badge must be given up), and receive three hundred krone a year, two gingham suits, and two aprons. The salaries they may earn go to the Sophiahemmet, and from their three hundred krone they are obliged to give twenty-five krone yearly towards their pensions. The Sophiahemmet nurses are evidently in high standing in the community, and the ninety-nine women enrolled in its membership since its beginning direct many and varied posts, as the following table shows:

Allmänna barnbördshuset.....	2
Asylet för Pauvres Honteux.....	1
Barnsjukhuset Samariten i Stockholm.....	1
Borgerskapets änkehus.....	1
Domnarfvets sjukstuga.....	1
Eksjö lasarett.....	1
Epidemisjukhuset i Stockholm.....	7
Epidemisjukhuset i Norrköping.....	1
Falu lasarett.....	2
Helsingborgs lasarett.....	1
Hernösands lasarett.....	1
Kalmar lasarett.....	2
Karlstads lasarett.....	3
Kronprinsessan Lovisas Vardanstalt.....	2
Lassby distrikt.....	1
Lenningska sjukhemmet i Norrköping.....	1
Ljusne sjukstuga.....	—
Malmöhus läns sjukv.-inrättningar i Lund.....	5
Nadhammars konvalescent-och hvilohem.....	10

Sahlgrenska sjukhuset i Göteborg.....	2
Serafimerlasarettet	14
Sophiahemmets sjukhus.....	8
Stockholms sjukhem.....	2
Tyska församlingen.....	2
Umea lasarett.....	1
Varbergs lasarett.....	1
Vänersborgs lasarett.....	1
Västerviks lasarett.....	1
Växjö lasarett.....	1
Visby lasarett.....	2
Ögonsjukhemmet i Stockholm.....	3
Privatvården i Malmö	5
“ i Göteborg	3
“ i Stockholm	19

We were impressed with the culture and capability of the women we met, and the wards and school gave evidence of progress and of excellence in management.

I LIVE to hail that season,
 By gifted minds foretold,
 When men shall rule by reason,
 And not alone by gold;
 When man to man united,
 And every wrong thing righted,
 The whole world shall be lighted
 As Eden was of old.

I live for those who love me,
 For those who know me true,
 For the heaven that smiles above me,
 And awaits my spirit too;
 For the cause that lacks assistance,
 For the wrong that needs resistance,
 For the future in the distance,
 And the good that I can do.

—GEORGE LINNÆUS BANKS.



A SISTER'S ROOM



OPERATING-ROOM IN THE SOPHIA HOSPITAL